

April 1957

Volume 36

Number 419

LABOUR ORGANISER

★ CONTENTS ★

These Decisive Months

Half-Tone Blocks

Local Election 'Promises'

Ban on Regional Discussions

Election Strategy

PRICE FIVEPENCE

Situations Vacant

RUSHCLIFFE C.L.P. invites applications for the post of full-time Agent. The appointment to be made in consultation with the National Executive Committee. Salary in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms can be obtained from the **National Agent, Transport House, Smith Square, London, S.W.1**, to whom they should be returned not later than 1st May, 1957.

ROMFORD C.L.P. invites applications for the post of full-time Secretary/Agent. The appointment to be made in consultation with the National Executive Committee. Salary and conditions in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms may be obtained from **Councillor George Waller, 43 Princes Road, Romford, Essex**, to whom they should be returned not later than Tuesday, 30th April, 1957.

SALISBURY C.L.P. invites applications for the post of full-time Secretary/Agent. The appointment to be made in consultation with the National Executive Committee. Salary in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms may be obtained from **Mr. S. J. Dyer, Hon. Sec. Salisbury C.L.P., 'Clovelly', Charlton All Saints, nr. Salisbury, Wilts.**, to whom they should be returned not later than 4th May, 1957.

SUNDERLAND BOROUGH LABOUR PARTY invites applications for the post of Assistant Agent who will be responsible for organising work in one of the two constituencies in the Borough. The appointment to be made in consultation with the National Executive Committee. Salary and conditions in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms can be obtained from the **National Agent, Transport House, Smith Square, London, S.W.1**, to whom they should be returned not later than 9th May, 1957.

CARMARTHEN C.L.P. invites applications for the post of full-time Agent. The appointment to be made in consultation with the National Executive Committee. Salary in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms can be obtained from the **National Agent, Transport House, Smith Square, London, S.W.1**, to whom they should be returned not later than 1st May, 1957.

MITCHAM C.L.P. invites applications for the post of full-time Secretary/Agent. The appointment to be made in consultation with the National Executive Committee. Salary and conditions in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms can be obtained from **Mr. J. A. Atkins, Labour Party Office, 484 London Road, Mitcham, Surrey**, to whom they should be returned not later than 30th April, 1957.

ROTHERHAM LABOUR PARTY AND TRADES COUNCIL invites applications for the post of full-time Agent. The appointment to be made in consultation with the National Executive Committee. Salary in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms can be obtained from **Councillor J. R. Moran, 214 Kimberworth Road, Rotherham, Yorkshire**, to whom they should be returned not later than 27th April, 1957.

BERWICK AND EAST LOTHIAN C.L.P. invites applications for the post of full-time Agent. The appointment to be made in consultation with the National Executive Committee. Salary in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms can be obtained from the **National Agent, Transport House, Smith Square, London, S.W.1**, to whom they should be returned not later than 29th April, 1957.

MONEY—CASH BRASS—TIN

Call it what you like
IT'S ALL

FUNDS!!!

Send for our free fund-raising
samples, only 3d. postage, to:—

THE IDEAL PRINTERS

12 Midland Street, HULL

THE "FUND-RAISING" SPECIALISTS

FULL UNION SHOP SINCE 1922
EST: 1919

HUNTINGDONSHIRE AND ISLE OF ELY CONSTITUENCY LABOUR PARTIES invite applications for the post of a full-time Organiser to cover both constituencies. The appointment to be made in consultation with the National Executive Committee. Salary in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms can be obtained from the **National Agent, Transport House, Smith Square, London, S.W.1**, to whom they should be returned not later than 14th May, 1957.

URGENTLY WANTED, for research purposes, copies of Labour Party Annual Conference Reports prior to 1940. Also principal Policy Statements issued by the Party prior to July 1945. A good price will be paid. Please reply to **Mr. Fred W. S. Craig, 18 Somerford Road, Bearsden, Glasgow**.

All prepared for the
LOCAL ELECTIONS . . . ?

Order your copy of
CONDUCT OF LOCAL ELECTIONS
(England and Wales)

or
CONDUCT OF SCOTTISH LOCAL ELECTIONS
Price 1/9 each, post free

Obtainable from Publications Dept.
**THE LABOUR PARTY . TRANSPORT HOUSE
SMITH SQUARE . S.W.1**

THE LABOUR ORGANISER

EDITOR: A. L. WILLIAMS

PUBLISHED BY THE LABOUR PARTY, TRANSPORT HOUSE, SMITH SQUARE, LONDON, S.W.1

VOL. 36. NO. 419

APRIL, 1957

PRICE FIVEPENCE

These Decisive Months

SPECULATION about whether or not there will be an early General Election is a pretty futile occupation, as 'Quair' points out on another page.

What is certain is that we have reached a decisive stage in the fortunes of the Tory and Labour Parties and what is done in the next few months will be of far-reaching significance.

For a long time the Tories enjoyed a remarkable run of luck, but their luck has now changed and they go from crisis to crisis with their prestige and self-confidence reduced every time.

Steady Trend

The trend against the Government has grown steadily since the last General Election but, as the *Labour Organiser* repeatedly has pointed out, this does not necessarily mean growing support for Labour, and cannot be considered as a guarantee of a Labour victory at the next General Election.

In recent by-elections, Labour has held its 1955 vote and in some cases has added to it, but a much more positive response is needed, and in the right places, if sufficient seats are to be won to produce a Labour Government with a substantial majority.

In general, electors need to be won for Labour's policy for dealing with the tremendous problems which face the country. Even if a majority were won because Tories refused to vote for their candidates, a Labour Government will find itself in difficulties in attempting to pursue a policy which affects the lives of the mass of ordinary citizens unless they understand and support that policy.

In particular, there is need to rally sufficient

support in the 200 key constituencies to hold those that were won and to gain those that were lost last time by narrow margins. It should never be forgotten that with the biggest vote in British political history, Labour lost the 1951 General Election.

Unfortunately, there is evidence that there has been a weakening of the proselytising zeal that used to distinguish socialists. Possibly this is due, not only to the decay of the old methods of propaganda, but also to a realisation that something more is needed to-day than a set of vague ethical principles.

There can be no complaint that the leaders are not getting down to brass tacks. The policy statements that have been published, or are in preparation, prove that socialist principles can be applied in a solution of modern problems, no matter how pressing or complicated they may be.

Before they can convince others, our own active members must know what they are talking about. That is the reason for the drive to develop Party education.

A great deal has been done already, but much more has to be done before there are enough socialist propagandists to convert the country. There must be an increased circulation of the policy statements and discussion notes, and a multiplication of discussion groups, conferences and schools.

Crowded Meetings

Crowded by-election meetings point to the growing political interest, and so does the response to the Rent Bill agitation. The coming local elections will give further opportunities for exposing the effects of Tory policies and for explaining Labour's alternatives.

In the marginal seats the local elections provide opportunities, too, for helping to bring about the improvements in election

machinery demanded by the Wilson report. The winning of council seats is little different from the winning of Parliamentary seats, though new methods (and new men) can be tried out with less risk.

A Skirmish

The local council fight can be regarded as a skirmish in the bigger battle that is yet to come. Canvass records will help to complete the marking of the register, the task set for the end of the present year. Labour voters can be earmarked for recruitment to Party membership, and 'Doubtfuls' made the subject of special attention in the planning of future leaflet distribution.

Above all else, well conducted campaigns, with more Labour seats at the end of them, will raise Labour morale and depress Tory morale, which is a good psychological preparation for the General Election.

New Edition

FEW political publications reach ten editions but the Labour Party pamphlet 'Party Organisation' has achieved that distinction.

The first and eight succeeding editions were written by Harold Croft, and the new edition has been revised by Len Sims, to bring it into line with changes in the Party constitution and rules as well as changes in election law.

Both Harold Croft and Len Sims have had a long and varied experience as voluntary workers, agents and organisers, and this pamphlet is the product not only of their practical experience in the field, but also of their study of the problems of Party organisation as officers in charge of the study courses for agents and key workers.

Kept Pattern

In revising Harold Croft's work, Len Sims has not departed from the pattern of the first edition. In simple language a description is given of how a Constituency Labour Party should work.

This involves the relationships between Executive and General Committees, the functions of Party officers as well as information about town and rural parties, ward committees, etc., and hints on recruiting and keeping individual members, the organisation of public meetings, planning elections and a host of other subjects.

Not the least interesting are the diagrams illustrating Party structure under the seven sets of Model Rules. And all this for 1s. 6d.!

ELECTION PETROL

PARTICULARS of the supplementary petrol allowances for the Local Government elections, made available by the Minister of Power, have been circulated to secretaries of Borough Labour Parties and of local Labour Parties in Urban districts and to secretaries of County Constituency Labour Parties.

Where the local Council area is divided into wards, allowances are based on the number of electors in the ward, where the area is not so divided, a block allowance is made available for the conveyance of electors to the poll as well as a further allowance based upon the number of candidates contesting.

Application should be made to the Regional Petroleum Officer by the secretary of the local party concerned on behalf of all its candidates in the local area. In some Rural District Council areas this may be difficult and in such a case each candidate should make an individual application.

Petrol allowances for routine party political purposes for the second rationing period, which starts on 17th April, are the same as previously and application for these must again be made to the Regional Petroleum Officer through the Labour Party Regional Organiser.

New Edition

CONDUCT OF PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

(Fourth Edition)

Price 7/- post free

This new edition has been extensively revised following the 1950 and 1951 General Elections. It is up-to-date, including recent changes in R.P. Regulations, the Electoral Registers Act, 1953, etc.

THE LABOUR PARTY, TRANSPORT HOUSE
SMITH SQUARE - - - S.W.1

QUAIR'S PAGE

ALTHOUGH the winter has been unusually clement, on the whole, in the matter of temperature, it has not been devoid of discontents. Trying to keep up with the affairs of the world, far and near, is a very exhausting business. Cuba and Indonesia and Gaza get all mixed up in the simple mind with couponed petrol and dearer bread and milk and prospective uprisings rents.

In the newspapers and on the radio, home and foreign, it's the very devil of a job to sort out the grains of fact from the haystacks of near-propaganda. To say nothing of the overt propaganda, much of it by no means pure, that hits you in the ear as you go around the dial.

Yet Spring is in the air, a bit earlier than most years. The air is kindly and the earth so prolific that flower-growers and market-gardeners are facing ruin, or so they say. And under blue skies in early March it isn't only fanciful young men whose biped grip of the earth is liable to become a little tenuous.

There has been in recent weeks a spate of by-elections, and a few more to come before we go to print. Broadly, the Labour candidates have done well, the Tory candidates have done badly, and the Other candidates have helped to refurbish a hard-up Treasury.

NATURALLY, the newest of the -ologists—the sort that call themselves pseph—(why do they give themselves such nasty names?)—have sprung into action. Not always remembering that nothing stands still, that all the time people are dying and others growing-up (or anyhow, reaching the age of 21), and moving house, and emigrating by the million to flee from the Tory Paradise, these experts have been busy manipulating the figures, working out percentages, and proving whatever they wanted to prove.

One has shown that if an immediate General Election happened it would result in a Labour majority of 40 in the new Parliament. Another has demonstrated to his own complete conviction that the Labour majority would be 150. Fortunately you may, if you

Remember, Nothing Stands Still

like, believe either or neither.

In places where secretaries, ward members, ticket sellers and other persistent politicians gather together lively speculation has taken place as to when that General Election may be expected. Some there are who feel sure it will come before the next corn harvest. Others insist that the Government will run its full term.

IT seems a rather fruitless argument between these two sets of prophets. The future lies always in the lap of the gods, and it behoves those who are concerned with the mechanics of electioneering never to be caught unprepared.

However, after each by-election this Spring the bird-chorus will undoubtedly be heard. We shall do well to enjoy the twittering and take all the cheer we can from it. The fussy and insistent rooks are not the most tuneful of birds. They will caw most raucously that this Government will hang on till 1960. They may be wrong.

Don't be taken in by the cuckoos, either. They are proclaiming that the Tory Government is now so publicly discredited, so clearly unrepresentative of the Will of the People, that either it will be forced by elementary decency to resign or will be driven from office.

ISN'T this just a little naïve? Just how can the Government be driven from office, or by whom? Moreover, there have been various reasons why Tory Governments have resigned, but a sense of decency cannot be found among them.

This scribe never claimed to be more than a minor prophet, and he is not telling you when the next General Election will come. He goes no further than this—that whether it be early or late, the Tory Government will do its damndest to find a spurious issue to fight it on. In expectation of that, we must make our own propaganda still more forthright and convincing.

PICTURES BY HALF-TONE SYSTEM

IF readers still have the stomach for it after last month's line process information, I shall this month take in half-tone work and the marking up of photographs.

The principle of half-tone reproduction is basically the same for every printing process where half-tone work is reproduced.

It depends on the relatively simple fact that two sheets of optically perfect glass, which are engraved very accurately with parallel lines and are filled with ink, and then cemented together at right-angles with Canada balsam, are placed in a camera just in front of the photographic plate.

The picture to be reproduced thus reaches the plate after it has been broken up by the screen into dots, which vary in size from the smallest points, giving the appearance of a very pale grey, to the largest, where they run together and appear almost black.

The negative is printed down on to a copper plate treated with a light sensitised coating and etched with acid. The block that results from this is made up of raised dots of the same height, but of varying size. It is the quality of these fine dots that give the appearance of greys, when in fact each part of the picture, if highly magnified, would be plainly in black or white.

Wash Drawing

A half-tone block can be made from a wash drawing or brush work original with various tones of intensity, but it is usually prepared from a bromide or photographic print. As in any photo reproduction work, the quality of the original is of the greatest importance where the clarity of detail, or brilliance of texture, or depth of tone is called for. So, where possible, use a glossy print that needs no retouching.

The pleasant-looking matt art prints on a coarse grain or linen paper so often offered by candidates are unsuitable for reproduction.

Retouching is a very difficult practice that should be avoided wherever practical, if only on the grounds of expense. However, there may be some feature which has to be removed. In these cases it is often better to have an enlargement made of a small print and the retouching carried out on this. Then, on the reduced block, the artificial nature and discrepancies of the retouching are less

How display
can help to
sell our policy

WILLIAM TINKS

apparent.

Where you wish to include name, slogan or similar type matter within the block area, get this set separately and paste 'repro' pulls into position. In ordering these type settings remember to allow for reduction in size of block. Whereas these type pulls could be taken in as part of a line block, where they are combined with a photograph you will have to ask for a combined line and tone which will cost more.

Cut a piece of tracing paper or flimsy to fit over the front of each photograph or drawing with a flap at the top to be turned over and gummed to the back. Use this for marking the limits of what is to be taken into the finished block. Though this process is known as trimming, the original should never be cut or defaced.

This procedure will enable you to alter your first decision as you proceed with sizing up and fitting the blocks into the layout. The first line to mark is the base line at the foot of the picture, which will either cut out uninteresting foreground or, in the case of a portrait, the unnecessary parts of the lower body.

This base line must be truly horizontal on the photograph and that can only be ensured by running your set square along the ruler and seeing that it coincides with the upright lines in the picture or the vertical edges of the photograph.

Camera Distortion

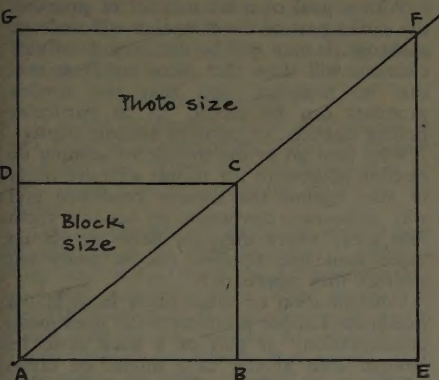
You will often find in photographs that the uprights on right and left slope inwards a little at the top, due to camera distortion and it is best to pick an average of these two, unless one of the uprights on either side strongly predominates, in which case it should receive due preference.

From this line draw verticals to trim the

right and left edges, observing what you want to keep in the picture and what you can do without. As a general guide, avoid cutting any figures in half, or coinciding exactly with them, as this will produce an unsettling result.

When you have drawn the final top limitation you will have fixed the proportions of the picture. Next you will have to decide what size you can afford the block to be on your layout.

Draw a diagonal from the left end of the base line to the top right-hand corner of the rectangle marking the limits of the block.



The width of the block is usually the best guide and this is fixed first. Suppose this to be four inches—measure four inches from 'A' along the base line to 'B', then from 'B' draw an upright to meet the diagonal at 'C'. 'BC' will then represent the height of your block when the width is four inches where AEGF represents the portion of the photograph or art work.

You may well find that these proportions do not fit the layout very well and you can still alter the trim along the top or bottom or both. On the other hand, where you are producing an address which goes into a foolscap envelope, you may find you need to move the side uprights inwards, which will make the block higher while still of the original width.

Where you have difficulty I would recommend that you trace the exact size that you want the block on the layout and produce your diagonal through the corners of this. Then superimpose it on the photograph and draw up the proportional vertical and horizontal within its limitations.

In the majority of cases the block is smaller than the original and this is prefer-

able in that it enables a clearer and sharper block to be reproduced. Try to avoid ordering a block larger than the original photograph or portion which you intend to use.

Never use a ball-pointed pen, even on the back of a photograph, as it almost invariably scores a line which will later show on the block.

Bleeding Off

Where a block is required to print up to the trimmed edge of the paper on one or more sides, do not forget to allow for this in the marking up. This merely means making the block over-size on that edge, or edges, by $\frac{1}{16}$ th or $\frac{1}{8}$ th of an inch according to the nature of the work. Obviously, if it 'bleeds' top and bottom or both sides, the excess in the measure must be a quarter or three-eighths of an inch.

One final point to remember: where a block has to butt up to a caption or type matter, it will be necessary to indicate this on the layout, as the block maker will have to arrange for the flange of the block to be trimmed off and the amount cut away. Merely write on the appropriate edge of your overlay on the art work, "Trim plate flush on this edge."

When calling up the size of screen, follow this rough guide: 85 screen for contrasting subjects on smooth cartridge, or cheap, printing papers.

100 screen suitable for smooth cartridge, M.F. or super calender papers.

120 screen for machine-coated imitation and matt art papers. 133, 150 and 175 screens are only used for better quality art paper and are best avoided for our purpose.

NEW COURSE FOR AGENTS

THE fourth three months' full-time training course for organisers and agents is likely to begin in May.

Readers of the *Labour Organiser* who would like to be considered for enrolment, should communicate with their respective Regional Organisers, since a recommendation from a Regional Organiser is essential.

Experience in a voluntary capacity in Party organisation and Parliamentary and local government elections is necessary, and possession of the Diploma of the Postal Study Course on Party Organisation is an advantage.

'Promises' for Local Elections

SHORTLY, Labour Party workers will be fighting the local elections. How many will fight in the same old way and how many will apply the lessons they have learned from the recent discussions on Party organisation and electoral methods?

Usually the candidate, election agent, and a handful of workers get together about three weeks before polling day to plan the ward campaign.

Often the campaign consists of the issue of an election address, one to every household usually is as much as can be afforded: sometimes a poll card is issued for each elector, but more often the polling information is given on the election address: two or three school meetings are arranged, supplemented by tours of a loudspeaker car.

Poor Show

The delivery of the election address and, perhaps, a separate special leaflet absorbs most of the time of the election workers, but the importance of the canvass having been drilled into them over the years, they make a show of tackling the job. Most times it is nothing more than a show, and if 25 per cent of the ward is canvassed they think they have done extremely well.

If the ward is being fought to win a seat, a definite break with old methods is essential. Plans should be based on securing the maximum Labour poll and this objective must be related to the actual situation in the ward.

A careful examination of recent local elections is a necessary prelude to effective planning. Probably it will be found that the highest poll of all recent local elections will be much below the poll in General Elections, say 50 per cent.

If there are 8,000 electors, that means it is unlikely that more than 4,000 will vote. To gain the seat a Labour candidate will need as high as 2,001 votes. Instead of a canvass which sets out to do the impossible by covering all the electors, the canvass should be directed with the intention of registering sufficient Labour promises to make possible a poll of 2,001.

Because votes are nearly always fewer than promises, in the example quoted, it would be necessary to have some 2,200 promises.

With these promises there is point in the elaborate polling day machinery which most parties are able to create for that one day, because the workers would then be able to concentrate on getting the promises to vote and to ignore all the time wasting which habitually is indulged in.

Undergo Change

With a goal of a set number of promises the earlier part of the campaign will undergo a change. It may well be that records of past elections will show that there are areas that can be neglected and that the needed promises can be picked up in particular polling districts, or parts of polling districts.

Why then go to the trouble of sending an election address to the people who are likely to vote against the Labour candidate and why dishearten canvassers by sending them into areas where they are likely to get no more than one promise out of every ten electors they approach?

Concentration on areas likely to yield the maximum Labour promises really does mean concentration. If part of a ward is to be ignored then greater care should be taken of the part that isn't. The money saved on the election addresses which would have gone to the Tory areas can be used for additional publicity in the Labour areas; on more leaflets and window bills, or perhaps even on an election special.

Quite Exciting

The progress of the canvass can become quite exciting and, though it may not be wise for all workers to know the total promises obtained, if targets are set for groups, or even individual canvassers, they will watch the day to day progress and will do their best to achieve their target. And to achieve their target does not necessarily mean that they have to canvass every house in the roads and streets allocated to them.

It doesn't matter where the canvasser gets his promises, but if he fulfils his target, as he will strive to do, he most likely will have done a more thorough canvass than if he had been set the task of a 100 per cent canvass in his area.

Some people cling to the illusion that we fight elections to win moral victories: we should be concerned with winning seats!

STANLEY PAIGE

Lotteries: Local Authorities' Role

THE question has been raised as to whether a Local Authority, having accepted the registration of a Society under the Small Lotteries and Gaming Act, 1956, have obligations other than those specifically provided by the Act.

So far as can be seen there are no such obligations placed upon the Local Authority. The duties falling upon the Local Authority are in respect of registration itself; the receiving of Returns from promoters; and the making of such Returns available to the Public, free of charge, if request is made during Office hours.

NOT APPARENT

It is not, apparently, their duty to act in the event of a promoter's failure to comply with the law. There is nothing, however to stop them from reporting the matter to the Police.

One of the powers conferred upon Local Authorities is the right to refuse a registration. Section 2 (2) (a) of the Act provides that a Local Authority may, after giving the Society concerned an opportunity of being heard, refuse to register or revoke the registration of the Society if it appears that any person has been convicted of an offence committed in connection with a lottery promoted on behalf of the Society either under the 1956 Act or under the Betting and Lotteries Act of 1934.

So far, no refusal of an application has been reported to us, but speculation has arisen as to who is to determine the Local Authority's decision. The Act says 'Local Authority'. Some journals think that the Clerk could take the necessary action as Chief Officer of the Local Authority; others that it should be reported to the appropriate Committee of the Council for decision, or that the Committee should bring the matter before the Council itself.

LEGAL RISK

Another issue has been raised which could have its effect on parties and similar organisations. So far it has been generally understood that a Society, being registered with the Local Authority and paid its fee, and complying with the requirements of the Act, can operate without any fear of legal action. Apparently this is not so.

The Act, in Section 1, provides for three classes of Society to register and then enumerates the conditions which must be

complied with. The opening sentence, however, reads:

This section applies to any lottery (not being a lottery which is deemed not to be unlawful by virtue of any other enactment) . . .

The *Municipal Journal*, in commenting upon this wording in its 'Legal Notes and Queries', raises the legality of using licensed premises to sell tickets. In their view, Section 141 of the Licensing Act of 1953 prohibits the use of such premises for gaming and states that there are a number of recorded cases which declare a lottery to be gaming.

They go on to say that if Clerks to Local Authorities, or Police Officers, are asked if registered lotteries can be run by the 'Pig and Whistle' Darts Club in the saloon, the answer should be 'No'.

The most recent case quoted was that of *Morris v. Baguley* (1937), in which a draw for a sweepstake on football teams was held not only to be a lottery, but also gaming within the Licensing Acts.

If the view expressed in the *Municipal Journal* should be correct, it will be necessary for parties either owning, or having accommodation in, licensed premises, to safeguard themselves especially in respect of registration.

Section 4 of the Act, which covers small gaming parties—such as whist drives—does specifically refer to Section 141 of the Licensing Act and, therefore, there is no doubt about the illegality of holding whist drives, etc., in licensed premises.

Len Sims

Buy these two important publications

- Election Charts and Forms
1/2d. post free
- Practical Illustrations of
Committee Rooms
1/8d. post free

Obtainable from the Publications Dept.

THE LABOUR PARTY - TRANSPORT HOUSE
SMITH SQUARE - - - S.W.1

REMOVE THE BAN ON

IT seems to me that the time has come when consideration must be given to a further development in the organisation of the Party. Such development is not only desirable but, I suggest, essential.

From my observations throughout the years, and more especially in recent years, it has become more and more evident that those at the head of the Party and those at the head of the trades unions are every day finding it more and more difficult to maintain contact with the rank and file. They are overloaded.

★ ★ ★

At the rank and file end there is a very definite sense of justifiable frustration. Constituency and local parties find it difficult to arouse interest in the Political Education campaign. They go to a football match or watch the television rather than give time to taking part in what is to them a purely academic discussion leading nowhere.

The Party conference is becoming each year more and more of a farce as a policy making conference.

In the course of one week it is not possible to discuss, really discuss, any of the motions sent in. A percentage are proposed and seconded but are not discussed. When a number have been proposed and seconded the chairman calls upon a member of the National Executive to reply. The National Executive accepts this; rejects that; will consider this, and so on.

We have almost reached the same position as a party meeting in Russia. Is it any wonder that delegates leave the conference feeling frustrated?

★ ★ ★

How can this be remedied? I do not believe that my suggestions make a final solution or anything like it, but I do believe they make for a more democratic way of dealing with things; a way which will help to clear away the sense of frustration; will help to do away with the parochialism so prevalent amongst local parties. We must arouse the active interest of the rank and file.

In the army we have what is known as a 'Chain of Responsibility'. A 'Chain of Responsibility' must be developed within the

Labour Party. This via the local or ward party, the constituency party, the county federation or county committee, the regional organisation to the National Executive.

Each linked actively and effectively to the next link in the 'Chain of Responsibility' and all linked to each other.

Each in turn being authorised to discuss questions not only of local interest and importance but also of national interest and importance. Each in turn being encouraged to forward their findings to the next senior link in the chain knowing that the questions will be discussed and the results consolidated. It is essential that the interests of a much wider public be aroused.

In the last ten years since the war there have developed a number of regional organisations within the Party. These regional organisations are at present prohibited from considering questions of national policy; so that in practice we have nothing between the constituency party and the National Executive. Again the sense of frustration creeps in.

★ ★ ★

I have been an Executive member of the Southern Regional Council for the past twelve months, representing East Sussex. It is important to note that I was elected as being the only one nominated. Again demonstrating the general lack of interest. This is a great pity.

At the Regional Executive Committee meetings I have had the honour and pleasure of discussing with a very level-headed, earnest and knowledgeable body of men and women, having many and various trades union, professional and constituency party connections, questions of much importance but unfortunately confined to purely regional affairs. Matters of national policy being barred.

I suggest that these bodies should not only be authorised to discuss, but should be encouraged to discuss, matters of national importance and policy; that they should be encouraged to discuss the important issues raised in the series of Political Education pamphlets now being sent out; that they should be encouraged to put down motions for the Party conference.

As far as discussions on policy matters are concerned, they would have no more

REGIONAL DISCUSSIONS

power than already possessed by constituency parties.

The members of the Southern Regional Executive Committee represent a very large area, which includes most of the industries of this country. The members have demonstrated, by their very willingness to serve, that they have escaped from the parochial attitude of mind, so destructive of thinking and so destructive of the power of realising that there are great numbers of organisations other than our own particular one.

The Regional Executive Committee is a real cross-section of the community. I have no doubt that the same can be truly said of all other Regional Executive Committees.

We know that our leaders are becoming more and more overloaded. Surely the measure of decentralisation suggested would enable the National Executive to receive well-considered opinions from really representative bodies of keen men and women; would arouse greater interest in the work of these bodies; would tend to disperse the frustration felt by so many and would greatly enhance the efficiency of the Party machine.

F. W. J. Thomas

★ ★ ★

ALL readers of the *Labour Organiser* will share Mr. Thomas's anxiety to preserve democratic procedure within the Labour Party. There will be differences, however, about the means of securing this desirable end.

Certainly there will be opposition to his proposal that the Party should be constructed according to the principle of responsibility from lower to higher. This is the Communist principle and as it has worked out in both the Communist states and the Communist Parties of the world, it has destroyed democracy and caused an unbridgeable gulf between leaders and led.

In fact, Mr. Thomas does not take his argument to its logical conclusion and his article boils down to a plea that Regional Councils shall be permitted to discuss and to decide matters outside of their own regional interests.

The deficiencies of the Party conference are recognised generally, but there can only be one authority for the Labour Party and

democracy demands that this should be a gathering of representatives of the national and local organisations which make up the Labour Party. The Party conference as constituted at present does give representation to national and local bodies and also gives them the right to submit resolutions and amendments on subjects that they wish the conference to discuss.

★ ★ ★

The conference may be too big and there may be too many resolutions on the agenda, but to cut down the representation, or to limit the right to bring matters forward for consideration, is to restrict democracy, not to extend it.

Mr. Thomas's suggestion that the Regional Councils should be able to submit resolutions would not reduce the problem but would make it bigger.

In practice, Party conference works much more successfully than its critics believe. Some 500 resolutions and amendments appear on the agenda every year. It is obvious that not all these could be discussed in the form in which they stand, even if conference met for a month, yet each year conference does discuss and make decisions on the burning issues of the day.

This involves a great deal of composing of resolutions and amendments, and many subjects remain undiscussed. These latter can hardly be called burning questions—even 'The Disposal of the Dead'—a subject of a resolution which appeared one year—could only be described as a 'burning question' in the more literal sense of the word!

The National Executive Committee is defeated on some issues at nearly every conference. That it suffers defeat so rarely is a tribute, not only to the ability of its representatives in presenting its case, but also to the way in which it keeps its ear to the ground.

★ ★ ★

There are no end of bodies who regard it as their duty to advise the National Executive Committee, and the National Executive itself sets up advisory committees on which serve authorities and specialists on particular subjects.

The Regional Councils were formed to co-ordinate party activities in their areas and to advise the National Executive Committee

on the political and social problems of their areas. If they do these jobs properly they will have little time left for anything else.

Regional Executive Committees usually meet only once every two months for part of a day, and Regional Councils for one day in a year. Some Regional Councils are like the Party conference: they have many more resolutions on the agenda than they are able to deal with. If they were to discuss national policy as well they would have little or no time to do the job for which they were formed.

This does not mean that Regional Councils should have nothing to do with policy questions not directly concerning their own regions. Indeed, the stimulation of interest in these problems is one of their important tasks, and most Regional Councils do run frequent conferences on matters of policy, as well as summer schools and week-end schools. Most have an officer whose special concern is political education and who endeavours to get educational activity going at every level.

Such frustration that may exist does not arise from deficiencies in the structure of the Party. Its cause usually is the inability of members to translate their ideas into practice.

The feeling of frustration is strongest and revolutionary temper at the highest pitch in places where Labour is weak and ineffectual. Where Labour is strong, controls local authorities and returns Labour M.P.s, there is too much good practical work to be done for feelings of frustration to arise.

The Editor

Preparing for 1958

THE Kettering Constituency Labour Party is to be warmly congratulated on the production of a booklet designed to arouse interest in the County Council triennial election in 1958.

The booklet is beautifully designed and duplicated. The introduction calls upon every citizen to fulfil his duty and ensure that the great powers vested in the County Council are used to the best advantage of the thousands of people living in Northamptonshire.

The form, financial and administrative responsibilities of the County Council are set out and a diagram clearly shows the relationship between the non-county borough, the urban and rural district councils.

The constitution and the election of a

County Council are also explained lucidly. The paragraphs relating to finance and expenditure, together with a table of the major services provided by a County Council, leave no one in doubt about the value and enormous range of its work.

Care and thought have been devoted to this production and we hope that its designer and author, Mr. Cyril Faulkner, the Kettering Agent, will be well rewarded for his labours by a greater interest in the 1958 County Council elections by the electors in his constituency.

CANDIDATES

THE following were endorsed as prospective Parliamentary Candidates by the National Executive Committee recently:

Mid-Bedfordshire	Mr. D. H. J. Newman
Cambridge	Mr. R. M. D. Davies
Truro	Mr. R. J. R. Blindell
Honiton	Mr. F. W. Morgan
South Dorset ..	Mr. G. S. Burden
West Dorset	Mr. L. W. King
Bristol West	Mr. W. T. Rodgers
Portsmouth West	Dr. M. Bresler
Beckenham	Mr. N. D. Sandelson
Lancaster	Mr. E. Gardner
Blackpool South ..	Mr. P. P. Hall
Newcastle North ..	Mr. T. L. MacDonald

Shrewsbury	Mr. K. V. Russell
Bath	Mr. F. N. Stacey
Stafford and Stone	Mr. A. Gregory
Birmingham,	
Selly Oak	Mr. J. O. Rhydderch
Isle of Wight ..	Mr. E. C. Amey
Doncaster	Mr. W. E. Garrett
Pudsey	Mr. V. P. Richardson



CO-OPERATIVE CANDIDATE RUNNING IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE LABOUR PARTY

Mitcham	Mr. E. J. C. Smythe
----------------------	---------------------



WITHDRAWAL OF CANDIDATURE Rushcliffe 72

CONSIDER ELECTION STRATEGY

Says J. W. RAISIN

SOMETIMES, at selected conferences, nominees for Parliamentary candidatures are asked which they regard as the more important, policy or organisation.

Naturally, they say that both are of vital importance but generally come down for policy if they have to choose the one or the other.

Their reluctance to declare is not, I think, simply a playing for votes: rather it is, I am sure, a subconscious realisation that differentiation between policy and organisation is unreal. That there is something which can be described as 'policy' and something else which can be termed 'organisation' is unquestioned.

What does not follow is that these are totally separate entities.

A good deal of kindly comment has come my way on the organisation of the North Lewisham by-election and, to the extent that this signifies a growing appreciation of the role of organisers in the securing and maintenance of power for Labour, I am naturally very happy.

It would be a pity, however, if too narrow a conception of organisation were taken as the decisive factor in the Lewisham Labour gain.

At any marginal by-election the newspaper men all ask the same question: what is the main issue at this election? Candidates and agents answer the question in such a way as to try to induce a concentration of attention on the points whereon one's own party appeal is relatively strong and that of one's opponents is weak.

In other words, each party would like both its supporters and its opponents to cast their votes with reference to this or that question. That is, a policy is advanced for the judgment of the electorate.

The Issue

But it is one thing to wish the election to be about some issue or other and quite a different thing to make it so. If one were convinced that it would prove extremely difficult to get electors to take an interest in a particular subject, the handling of this matter would be partly a question of organisation and partly a question of policy.

The terms in which the question was

phrased, the emphasis placed upon it and the timing of its introduction would all, surely, have to be considered not merely as disembodied political statements, but as part of the living organism of the election.

Conversely, the introduction of something which the electorate would fasten on to with avidity would demand great care if other important political considerations were also to be given reasonable attention by the electors.

Thus it was at North Lewisham. Here, of course, close marginality had also to be taken into account as a factor in the shaping of the policy - cum - organisation strategy of the election.

The lines of our strategy were quite clear. We had to hold our vote up at the figure obtaining at the General Election (notwithstanding the effects of an expiring Register), and at the same time help to depress the Conservative vote to the lowest possible level.

Mutually Exclusive

These objectives have often been treated as mutually exclusive but that is mainly because the inter-action of policy and organisation have not been widely recognised. It must be admitted that it is not easy to prevent a rise in the enemy's vote when, owing to the general interest, our own vote has gone up; and conversely.

This is sometimes discussed as a question as to whether we want a high or a low poll at a given election. The misconception here is that it is the level of the *general* poll with which we ought to be concerned. Far from it.

What we want is the highest possible poll of those who will probably vote Labour and the lowest possible vote of the Tories.

Every act in the conduct of this by-election had to be taken as part of this overall strategy. The presentation of the candidate, the emphases in policy, the weight of public meetings, the timing of policy statements and above all, the character as well as the quality of the personnel organisation, had all to be made complementary to one another.

The balancing of the central organisation against the local units demanded much care at the early stages. The difficulty was that, as we did not know whether we should be fighting on the old or the new Register, we had to prepare for the former but be ready to swing over to the latter at a moment's notice.

It was, therefore, necessary to create a

rather fully articulated central organisation for the handling of postal vote, removals, hospitals, public meetings, special canvass and other services.

This compact and powerful central organisation would have been quite out of place unless matched by a very substantial organisation at local level. Essentially this meant having a unit for all (or nearly all) the 22 Polling Districts of the constituency.

Trained Personnel

That meant the securing of trained personnel for staffing the committee rooms; and this was difficult because people are naturally reluctant to commit themselves to the undertaking of a task when they cannot be told when they will be required.

I was convinced, however, that while victory could certainly be gained, it could only be won here if an effort of the greatest possible intensity were made at what can be regarded as 'the point of production'—that is, at street level.

I therefore committed myself very early on to an unusually extensive breakdown in local organisation—resulting in a much larger number of local committee rooms than the Tories had.

Given that there were to be many units, workers had to be found. That, of course, is obvious but what is not, perhaps, so fully realised is that if you have workers, you must have work for them to do. Of course, there is always canvassing, but that is not all.

Physical handling of materials at reasonable intervals must take place in and from the committee rooms if workers are to get the sense of election activity.

From Centre

There must be something coming out from the centre, every so often. What each item is about is not, usually, of great interest to the workers who frequently do not even pause to read what they are folding and delivering, it is enough that a job has to be done.

I had, therefore, to plan for a series of literature issues before I could know what would be in them. This does not mean that the content was of secondary consideration, but it did involve the production of policy in relation to distribution and not, as is often the case, the other way round.

All this demands the existence of a by-election nucleus and we are now able to field a small corps of highly trained and experienced officers around which can quickly be developed a full-scale agency staff.

To conclude: Policy and Organisation are obverse and reverse of the same medal.

154 MEMBERS OUT OF 903 VOTERS

ASHWELL is a small village off the Great North Road with an electorate of 903. The rector of the parish church is an active Christian Socialist and his church has associations with the Black Death.

Prior to the 1955 General Election, it was recorded that we had a party there with a membership of ten. I had never visited the village, as at that time we had an assistant part-time agent responsible for several villages, including Ashwell.

I decided to send to Ashwell a volunteer, who had come from London to assist, to make contact with the party and to get an up-to-date marked register.

My volunteer made several visits and obtained an up-to-date canvass, which showed quite a sound support for the Labour candidate. On polling day, I sent a volunteer, a head-teacher, over to Ashwell to organise the knocking-up, and there was a poll of 730.

After that election was over, we decided to start on preparations for the next. (We have to wipe out a Tory majority of 965.) Ashwell was earmarked for a thorough canvass of the Labour promises.

The head teacher and myself both agreed to circulate a duplicated letter to all the 'promises' thanking them for their support and inviting them to join the Labour Party. We followed up the letter with a personal call.

We can now report 154 paying members, organised into an active local party with a very keen and 'live' secretary, Mr. Frank Pickard, supported by a strong team of officers and committee members, plus virile Women's and Youth sections.

Many social functions have been held in the village hall with a good financial return. A coach full of supporters went to the regional rally to hear James Griffiths and Peggy Herbison, two coaches went to Clacton for the first of their summer outings and a coach recently went to Royston for the Royston Labour Party annual dinner, where the guest speaker was Sidney Silverman, M.P.

A local news sheet is issued regularly to all members and meetings are held once a month.

Harry Luxton

Secretary is the Key Officer

.....

IT is impossible to over-estimate the importance of the secretary of any organisation. He is the key official. Success will depend on his efficiency, drive and initiative.

Although a chairman is a powerful influence in meetings, it is the secretary who is more intimately associated with the members and, therefore, his example and good influence can be of inestimable value.

What are the qualities required? Determination, method, persistence, tact, courtesy, common-sense and foresight. A sound knowledge of business procedure, the rules and standing orders of his organisation is, also, essential. A touch of humour added to these virtues would produce the perfect secretary.

What are his principal duties?

Principal Duties

1. To attend all business meetings of the General and Executive Committees and sub-committees which he is entitled to attend as an *ex-officio* member.
2. To prepare the agendas in consultation with his chairman.
3. To compile and read minutes and make any corrections to the minutes which are deemed necessary by a meeting. If minutes are circularised it will be his duty to ensure circularisation.
4. To send and receive correspondence and to read incoming communications to the meetings.
5. To ensure that copies of outgoing correspondence are kept and filed in an orderly manner, along with incoming letters, documents and literature.
6. To draft reports required by his members in consultation with his chairman.
7. To draft motions which may be moved in committee or at a full meeting.
8. To keep in contact and ensure consultation with his fellow officers.
9. To keep a complete register of members, or if he is the secretary of a delegate body, of delegates. Should an organisation appoint a special officer for this task, the secretary should satisfy himself that this job is being done effectively.
10. To keep a vigilant eye on activities and seek support for planning well ahead.
11. To keep members fully informed of

all activities and do whatever he can to ensure support.

12. To call the attention of the chairman to the absence of a quorum at a meeting if a quorum is provided for in the rules.

13. To ensure that a copy of the rules and standing orders are available at all meetings.

14. To take the vote at a meeting if the chairman's ruling is challenged.

There are many other duties, but the above points cover the principal ones. They may appear formidable, but if secretarial duties are carried out with quiet persistence they do not become onerous, but pleasurable.

It is worth while taking a closer look at some of the duties to see what they involve in terms of personal relationships.

Duty No. 8 calls for contact and consultation with officers. The importance of this aspect was stressed in the previous article on chairmanship. Initiative in this matter does, however, rest with the secretary.

He is usually the first officer to handle the business of an organisation. He is therefore in a strategic position to know when issues of importance are likely to arise. These can be dealt with far more satisfactorily if he talks vital matters over with his chairman beforehand.

In carrying out his duties before meetings the secretary often comes into contact with his members in an informal way. He may be met with complaints, expressions of personal disappointment and dissatisfaction. These are often secondary or even petty issues which are not ventilated in meetings, but are often the cause of undercurrents which destroy a good atmosphere and sabotage the progress of a meeting.

Sympathetic Ear

By keeping a sympathetic ear to the ground, a common-sense attitude, not to mention a broad back and a thick skin, a wise secretary can alert his chairman about molehills which may become mountains in the minds of members.

Such prompting often enables a chairman to give a lead to a member or make an approach to an individual which lifts a meeting above pettyness.

Many of our difficulties do not arise from big issues, but from misunderstandings and

personal grievances. A secretary who can help both officers and members to ride above a 'storm in a teacup' is a treasure.

A secretary's relationships with his treasurer are also very important. There must be an understanding on the division of labour between these two officers.

A secretary who will not let the treasurer treasure is looking for trouble, which he will most certainly get. There must be agreement between these officers on the routine to be followed in handling monetary affairs.

The secretary should ensure that the treasurer is given every facility to present regular financial reports.

Tactful Qualities

The tactful qualities of a secretary receive their most severe test in carrying out duties 10 and 11, which relate to his approach to members. He will have every type of person to deal with. Some will have many qualities—others will have less to contribute. The point is that every member has something worthwhile to offer.

A secretary who can take a personal interest in members, discover their interests and then persuade an organisation to carry out a programme of activities which will cater for all of them is a secretary who is going to be rewarded by an above average attendance at meetings.

He will be rewarded by something even more important than attendance. He will be given the confidence and respect of members, and be more ready to carry out new ventures.

A number of the duties outlined deal with the routine aspect of secretarial work, but are just as important as those which are associated more closely with human relationships.

Duty No. 3 deals with compiling of minutes which constitute the most important records of an organisation. The writing up of precise, complete minutes is an art which should be mastered by anyone aspiring to secretarial duties.

Minutes are a record of business transacted and are not an essay about what everybody said and did. They should indicate date and place of meeting, number present, motions as put by the chairman, movers of such motions and seconders where required.

Recording Votes

Some organisations record the number of votes given for and against motions; others do not record figures but indicate a majority decision. The chairman's decision on points of order should also be included in minutes.

The secretary's efficient handling of

incoming and outgoing correspondence is important. The first job to be done after a meeting is the writing up of the minutes, while the business is still fresh in the mind of the secretary.

The secretary's next job is to deal immediately with correspondence arising from decisions taken at the meeting. Too often this is neglected and letters are not sent until it is too late to be sure of a reply in time to be dealt with at the next meeting. Neglect of correspondence can lead to frustration and delay in getting on with activities.

It is essential that every secretary should have a simple method of filing. Most Constituency Labour Parties will provide its secretary with a filing cabinet or some simple equipment, but far too many secretaries of local parties, women's sections and youth organisations are left with the mantelpiece as a substitute for a filing cabinet. Lots of letters have been lost because they have been propped up behind the clock or pushed into an already overcrowded drawer.

If organisations expect their officers to be methodical then it is their elementary duty to ensure that officers are supplied with equipment, no matter how simple it may be.

Secretaries will devise their own method of filing according to the needs of their organisation. It is, however, essential that separate files should be kept for each important section of correspondence.

Duties 6 and 7 relate to the drafting of reports and motions. These place considerable responsibility upon a secretary. It is a bad policy to rely on memory, a secretary should train himself to take clear, precise notes rather than attempt a verbatim report unless he is a shorthand writer.

He will then be able to draft a full report from his notes, but it is always wise to discuss the final draft with the chairman. He may recall some point of importance which the secretary had overlooked.

Another good reason for consultation is that once the chairman has approved the draft the secretary may be assured of his support in committee.

Absolutely Correct

It is important that a secretary should be absolutely correct in drafting motions which are moved from the floor of a meeting. He must insist that the chairman gives him every opportunity to check the terms of the motions with the mover and seconder before it is put to the meeting. He should also keep the draft until the next meeting.

He may be challenged that the terms recorded in the minutes are not in accor-

(continued on page 77)

Material for Your Local Elections

WITH the coming of April, the Local Elections campaign begins in earnest—the canvass is under way, the candidates are busying themselves in their wards, and the committee rooms are being opened.

It is to the committee rooms that workers report and bring back the results of their canvass. This being so, the material used in the committee room becomes very important and thought should be given to what is required.

First of all we want to ensure that the committee room itself is easily and quickly identified. The committee room poster, printed in the colour which immediately links it to the Labour Party, is therefore essential. Head Office supplies such posters—white on red, black on yellow, white on green. The double crown posters (30" x 20") are 6 for 3s. or 12 for 5s.

If the double crown poster is too large for display in the window then crown (15" x 20") can be obtained in the same colour combinations—the price being 12 for 2s. 6d.

Canvass systems vary and, while Head Office has never been dogmatic on the kind of system to be employed, the one card that has stood the test of time is the Individual Canvass and Promise Card. This card, which is often used after the election for record purposes, costs 7s. 6d. per 1,000, which includes 25 covers and clips.

The wall sheet for marking off on polling day still finds its place in many committee rooms. The price of the Head Office sheet is 3s. 6d. per 50 copies. The Eastern region produces a wall sheet (with directions) to be operated where the alphabetical register is broken up into walking order—the price

(continued from page 76)

dance with the original motion. If he has secured confirmation when the motion was before the meeting and has retained the draft, he is safeguarded against the member who might have changed his mind between times.

The organisation with a secretary who arrives at a meeting before time, has already consulted his chairman, has a cheerful word for everybody before the meeting opens, places the agenda already approved on the table, opens a neat minute-book ready for reading and signing, lays down orderly correspondence, is the one who gets on with the job.

A final word in the ear of the lucky organisation! Hand him a bouquet occasionally.

being 4s. per dozen.

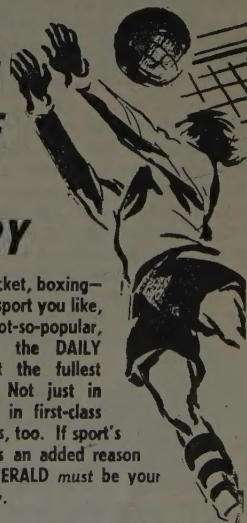
The 'Reading' system of knocking-up, with its saving of time and effort, has become very popular and, even if the whole system advocated by Mr. Ian Mikardo is not adopted, this set of knocking-up sheets can be applied to any local system.

The Lancashire and Cheshire region has produced sets of five carbon-interleaved sheets (10" x 4"), each sheet being a different colour to indicate the stage of knocking-up in each particular street.

'Time you Vote' leaflets at 5s. per 1,000; 'Vote Labour' and 'Keep Left' slips (3½" x 12") cost 1s. for 25; 'To-day is Polling Day—Vote Labour' posters (printed in modern colours) are in both crown and double crown. Crown posters cost 1s. each, 12 for 10s. 6d., or 50 for £1 10s. Double crown are 1s. 6d. each, 12 for 15s. and 50 for £2 10s.

One final point—orders for materials should be made by the Election Agent as these items must be included in the Return of Election Expenses. The prompt placing of orders with the Labour Party Publications Department will receive prompt attention in return—the same will apply to orders placed with our Regional Offices.

FINEST SPORTS SERVICE IN THE COUNTRY



Soccer, racing, cricket, boxing—take any popular sport you like, or some of the not-so-popular, and you'll find the DAILY HERALD gives it the fullest finest coverage. Not just in words either, but in first-class action photographs, too. If sport's your hobby that's an added reason why the DAILY HERALD must be your paper—every day.

LABOUR—AND THE BEST

DAILY HERALD

MORE THAN 1,000 NEW MEMBERS

'We were grateful for the help given to us by a N.A.L.S.O. team of students, and at the end of December I was able to announce a total recruitment of 1,073 new members in 1956.

'After allowing for the normal wastage from death, removals and resignations of 268, this makes a net increase of 805 members, thus the total membership in the division has risen from 1,605 to 2,410. All this, coupled with a real drive for efficiency in the field of collecting subscriptions, has enabled us to meet our increased overhead costs, pay for all the maintenance work on the building without getting too deeply into the financial mire.'

Accrington Trades Council and Labour Party.

★ ★ ★

'Membership last year stood at 947 and at the end of 1956, 1,035—an increase of 88.

'As we build up and increase the number of local parties in the constituency, so our membership will rise; but we look particularly to the Urban Districts of Belper and Swadlincote, with electorates of over 11,000 and nearly 15,000 and present membership of only 130 and 200, to bring us within reach of this target.'

Belper Constituency Labour Party.

★ ★ ★

'I am pleased to report that the decrease shown last year has been halted, and, in fact, we finished the year with a net increase of 206 members; 266 new members being enrolled and 60 lost. Of the 1,089 members on the books at the end of the year, 88 were not issued with cards at the commencement of 1957 (50 lapsed, 18 resigned, 13 left town and seven deceased) so we started the new year with 1,001 members.'

Cheltenham Constituency Labour Party.

★ ★ ★

'There is a need to give younger men an opportunity to gain experience in our work and to attract young people generally. Quite an influx has started. Many of our officers have encouraged these new helpers, and they are to be commended for showing tolerance and understanding. This year we have many fresh names among the nominations for Executive Committee. We value the work of all old members, but they will be the first to welcome the desire of young people to do

something for the cause. The result seems to be that we are achieving a blend of experience and youth which is most encouraging.'

Wells Constituency Labour Party.

★ ★ ★

'Two youth sections have been formed in the year, one at Gainsborough and one at Bardney. Both appear to be flourishing and also increasing their membership. It is really vital to the Party as a whole to encourage these sections in every way. The average age of the "active" membership is getting older all the time and we must, in the years to come, have young people who are ready and able to step into officership.'

Gainsborough Constituency Labour Party.

★ ★ ★

'Merioneth Constituency covers 660 square miles and visiting branches and attending committees are problems—from the point of view of time and expense. We are indeed grateful to the National Executive for partially solving one of these difficulties by contributing £50 p.a. towards the cost of travelling.'

Plaid Lafur Meirion.

★ ★ ★

'During the year the individual membership was 1,625 men and 1,237 women, a total of 2,862. This was an increase over last year, but this was almost solely due to better collections and not new members.

'Collections in some areas are still causing concern. In other areas we have very good collections by voluntary and commission collectors. Our sincere thanks are extended to those collectors for the valuable work they are doing. We must make further efforts to improve our average collection and also to increase our total membership.

'Trade Union membership now stands at a total of 8,034 members. A further small increase is possible but this can only be done by the Trade Unions themselves. Repeated attempts have been made without success.'

North Lanarkshire Constituency Labour Party.

★ ★ ★

'The income derived from members' subscriptions was approximately £40 more than the previous year and averaged 360 fully paid up members per ward as against

294 last year. County Ward showed an increase of 26 per cent. Pirrie Ward 40 per cent, Warbeck Ward 75 per cent but, unfortunately, Fazakerley Ward lost ground with a decrease of approximately 25 per cent. The figures are broken down in order to ascertain how many 6s. there are in the total subscriptions collected.

'This, of course, does not produce a true picture, but it serves the purpose of providing a basis for comparison year by year. This comparison is as follows:

Fully paid up members

	1955	1956	Increase	86
County Ward	267	353		
Pirrie Ward	401	564	„	163
Warbeck Ward	133	233	„	100
Fazakerley Ward	373	289	Decrease	84'

Walton Constituency Labour Party.

★ ★ ★

'The most important item from an organisational point of view was the demonstration held on 2nd June, to celebrate 50 years of unbroken Labour representation in Parliament. The effort was a joint one, the two constituencies of Westhoughton and Wigan co-operating with us. It happened that Westhoughton were also celebrating the same event, as in their case as well as ours, the 50 years also applied. The Borough of Wigan could not be left out, for a good slice of Wigan (Pemberton) was a part of the Ince constituency from 1906 to 1918. Thus it was felt that many old Party members would still be alive and active and would recall the hectic times and strenuous elections of past days. We, therefore, could not leave them out of the celebrations.

The demonstration was a great success. Not as many members marched in the procession as we had hoped. Nevertheless, the five contingents were fairly representative of the movement. Each contingent was headed by a well-known band and led by the leaders of the various organisations. The banners, too, were a most impressive sight. A great pity the day was so blustery, for many of the banners were damaged. Thank goodness we had the foresight to insure them all.'

Ince Constituency Labour Party.

★ ★ ★

'Members of the Harrow Labour Party visited Hamburg from 11th to 25th August. There is no doubt from the report of their visit that it was a success and a grand experience. Members, I am sure, profited by their stay with our Hamburg comrades, they were the guests of the SPD, the T.U.s and the Co-operative movement.'

Harrow Borough Labour Party.

**HUNDREDS OF POLITICAL AGENTS
OF ALL PARTIES**

are now using the

**“SAVETIME”
CANVASS
CARDS**

They make canvassing easier

**Avoid errors Save handwriting
and have proved the Ideal System**

VOTERS MARKING OFF LISTS
(19½" × 52½") 1/- each

ASK FOR SAMPLES

EDWARDS & BRYNING LTD.
ROCHDALE

Telephones : 2148/49/40

**DO YOU SMOKE
ON PRINCIPLE?**

When you buy C.W.S. Number
One Cigarettes at any L.C.S.
shop, you are sure
(a) They are produced
by Trade Unionists.
(b) They are sold by
Trade Unionists.

**NUMBER
ONE
CIGARETTES**

20 for 3/8d
are usually advertised
by personal recommendation

**LONDON CO-OPERATIVE
SOCIETY LIMITED**

ELECTION ENVELOPES

Can be supplied from stock at the following prices

9 in. \times 4 in.

Under 10,000	.....	.....	19/3
10,000 — 24,000	.....	.....	18/6
25,000 — 49,000	.....	.....	18/-
50,000 — 99,000	.....	.....	17/6
100,000 — 249,000	.....	.....	17/2
250,000 and over	.....	.....	16/8

All prices are per thousand and include printing,
purchase tax and delivery



SAMPLES ON REQUEST TO

J. B. SHEARS & SONS
LIMITED

191 New King's Road, Fulham
London, S.W.6

Telephone: RENown 2704